

## **Siting of Children's Residential Facilities**

Once the need for the type of facility to be operated and the population to be served has been determined, you will need to submit a program description. When your program description has been accepted and a lead agency has been assigned, an application will be sent to you. You will need to determine where to locate the facility before the application can be submitted to the lead regulatory agency.

Here are some important issues to consider in determining the location of the facility:

### **SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

- Are there hazards near the building or house you intend to use? For example, dangerous traffic patterns, high crime statistics, inappropriate influences (gang activity, drug activity, a sex offender living nearby, etc. - to check the sex offender registry click on: <http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/sor/index.htm>. )
- Does the building meet the needs of the population you want to serve? For example, is the floor plan easily navigated by individuals with cognitive limitations (e.g. mental retardation, autism, etc.) and permanent or temporary physical challenges (e.g. pregnancy, ambulatory issues, etc.)

### **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

- Recreation Areas
- Schools
- Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services
- Medical Facilities/Offices
- Transportation
- Emergency Services
- Job Opportunities
- Libraries

### **ADEQUATE PARKING FOR STAFF AND VISITORS**

### **MAINTENANCE ISSUES**

- Do you have the resources to keep the building in good repair?
- Can you keep the yard mowed and free of debris?
- Can you keep the driveway clear of snow and ice?

### **COMPLIANCE TO THE STANDARDS FOR INTERDEPARTMENTAL REGULATION OF CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES – Part III Residential Environment**

The Interdepartmental Standards require that a certificate of occupancy be attached to the initial application for licensure/certification. The locality where you wish to locate your facility, not the lead regulatory agency, makes the decision whether or not to issue a certificate of occupancy. Each locality has its own procedures and rules for issuing the certificates. Research may be needed to determine what information is required in the locality where you want to locate. The locality should be made aware that your intent is to operate a children's residential facility.

Wherever you locate your facility it is important to be a good neighbor. Good neighbor policies and procedures will need to be developed and staff will need to be trained on these policies and procedures.